



Bulletin de la Société St-Léonard du Canada
Newsletter of the St. Leonard's Society of Canada




St. Leonard's Society
of Canada
www.stleonards.ca

**Move beyond bars,
create second chances.**

MOVING BEYOND BARS

SLSC recently completed a final milestone of our current Strategic Plan with the creation of a PSA. Former SLSC Administrative Assistant and Film Studies graduate Angie Chiang produced the 30-second video with partner Chris Redmond, with support and input from St. Leonard's staff and a volunteer PSA Advisory Group.

The video portrays the need for supported transitions through the metaphor of a child needing help to face life "beyond bars."

Please contact SLSC head office if you are interested in seeing the PSA or acquiring a copy.

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News and Views

Banking on Youth

Interview with Dave Mackenzie

by Lacey Phillips

On March 17th, I spoke with LifeLine In-Reach worker Dave Mackenzie about his mission to tell youth about the realities of prison.

LP: Tell me a little bit about your experience in the institutional setting

DM: I spent ten years in prison for second degree murder beginning in 1984 and basically I had never been in jail before in my life. So all of a sudden after a first crime, you're looking at a life sentence, you go into prison not knowing what to expect.

(Continued on p. 4)

BOOK REVIEW

by Donald G. Evans

ARE PRISONS OBSOLETE?

Angela Y. Davis Seven Stories Press, 2003.

In her thought-provoking monograph, Angela Davis stirs our imagination and our conscience by asking the question: are prisons obsolete? She attempts to answer her own question in her work entitled "Are Prisons Obsolete?" published in 2003 by the Seven Stories Press, New York.

The author, Angela Y. Davis, is a Professor of History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz. For over three decades she has been active in various organizations focusing on challenging prison-related repression. Readers might remember the author's advocacy work in the early 70's on behalf of political prisoners and her subsequent arrest and charges related to three capital felonies. She was detained in jail for 16 months awaiting trial until her eventual acquittal in 1972.

The monograph consists of six well researched and written chapters that challenge the reader to confront what she calls the human rights disaster in American prisons. Her arguments suggest that the American practice of mass incarceration is nearer to slavery than to any concept of justice, whether criminal or social. In the first five chapters, Davis sets the stage for a discussion of abolitionist alternative "punishments". She examines issues related to prison reform, slavery and civil rights; discusses how gender structures the prison system and critiques the prison industrial complex.


Davis makes two key points regarding the generally accepted reasons for failing to develop alternative punishments. She argues that the "taken-for-grantedness" of prisons as the standard by which we tend to measure all other modes of punishment has become a major reason to ignore the search of other "punishment" options. Secondly, Davis argues that the prison reformers are too focused on "prisons" in their reform efforts.

For some time now I have been concerned about the lack of attention paid to community-based corrections by most penal reformers, especially those who represent agencies working in the community. It appears that even community correctional agencies have a tendency to turn their energies to prison reform rather than directing closer attention to the needs of offenders serving sentences in the community. Supporting prison reform serves to reinforce incarceration as the only sufficient method of sanctioning or punishing offenders. It is the failure to mount a significant critique of punishment by imprisonment that has led to incarceration being the standard by which punishment is measured.

The first five chapters of this book commence an effort at a critique of punishment, and I am hopeful that it will be continued and expanded in the author's forthcoming book, "Prison and Democracy" to be published by Random House.

In the concluding chapter Davis makes a number of suggestions and offers some advice for community activists working towards a fairer justice system and a more inclusive society. She discusses the following ideas. Reformers should:

- Let go of the desire to discover one single alternative system of punishment
- Confront the prison-industrial complex
- Stop looking for "prison-like" alternatives
- Look for a continuum of alternatives to imprisonment
- Consider the creation of new institutional forms
- Encourage the decriminalization of drug use and sex work
- Encourage the defence of immigrant's rights
- Develop employment and living wage programmes
- Re-create community-based recreation opportunities
- Question the conceptual link between crime and punishment
- Create a new conceptual frame for imagining alternatives that involves questioning why "criminals" have been constituted as a class undeserving of civil and human rights
- Redefine crime in terms of tort rather than criminal law, for example reparative law.

Although not everyone will be enthusiastic about the author's proposals or even her general thesis, it is, nevertheless a thought-provoking monograph and should enhance and inform the debate about what to do to make our communities safer. More application of the traditional forms of punishment has failed to yield the desired results. The time for seriously thinking about community approaches has arrived. I recommend the reading of and the debate about the issues covered in "Are Prisons Obsolete?" The question is not answered but hope exists that prisons might be made less central in our quest for security. 

Donald G. Evans is President of the Canadian Training Institute, Toronto, Canada.



St. Leonard's Society of Canada

Société St-Léonard du Canada

St. Leonard's

Society of London



BOLTON DAY 2004:

Collaboration and Partnership Turning Buzzwords into Reality

Friday, May 28

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Delta Armouries Hotel

325 Dundas Street

London, Ontario

1-800-668-9999



Explore with colleagues old and new the opportunities and challenges required to create effective working partnerships and collaborations within the justice system. Join us for a practical examination of collaborations with both traditional and non-traditional partners.

Gwen Boniface, Commissioner OPP
Priscilla DeVilliers, Office of Victims Ontario
Fred Galloway, Consultant

will share their opinions on what approaches work to form effective partnerships. These experienced and dynamic presenters will bring their perspectives and share their experience during an interactive morning plenary. Policing with partners, victims' perspectives and challenges, and the business practice issues related to forming and maintaining effective partnerships and collaborations will be highlighted.

The afternoon workshops will provide an opportunity for registrants to bring their own experiences to the table and to explore in detail their area of interest, gather key points, and identify any pitfalls. Common themes will be flagged during the closing plenary. Carry forward actions will be reported back to the participants following the session.

Come to the Delta Armouries Hotel, London Ontario on Friday May 28th. Together we'll find new ways to develop partnerships and achieve our common goals through collaboration.

Register now! Participation is limited and will be on a first-come basis. See you there.

For further registration information please contact:

Joanne Knox, Conference Registrar

Phone (613) 545-0253 Fax (613) 545-9241

Email: Joanne_Knox@on.aibn.com

Organizing Committee: Peter Aharan, Jessica DiZazzo, Susan Haines, Rebecca Howse, Joanne Knox, Lacey Phillips, Oliver Stotzer, Elizabeth White, David Whiteley

PLEASE SEE OVER FOR REGISTRATION FORM

LP: How important was support from family and friends in your rehabilitation?

DM: It was everything because I was even looking at taking my own life at that point. I didn't really know anybody when I went into prison. It was extremely horrifying. I was in with the worst of the worst and it was almost like a dream.

LP: Do you think youth have more problems to deal with in prison than you did?

DM: It's a totally different culture from what we had fifteen years ago. It's a society in its own; living in that culture is hard. It's a lot harder today for youth to get the help and support they need. Programs have been cut and the funding for services just isn't there. They want to make time tougher for people in prison.

LP: Why do you think it is important to reach youth?

DM: I speak a lot locally and sometimes I travel to Toronto and Cornwall, like just a little while ago with [Correctional Service of Canada Commissioner] Lucie McClung and I work with the LOV (Leave Out Violence) program quite a bit down here. When I went to Toronto with Ms. McClung, we went to 25 high schools. I have about two speaking engagements per month minimum and I go to a lot of youth training facilities where a lot of young people are in conflict with the law but aren't doing time, and I try to tell them my story. I think that if you get to them young enough and you tell them the real story about what prison is like inside, it can make a difference. I think I was meant to do that so I continue it. I think a lot of kids just need someone to talk to.


LP: So, what's coming up for you in the next little while?

DM: Well, I'm a bit of an artist; I do oils and acrylics. I started about a year after I started serving my time and I haven't stopped. Now I have paintings all over Canada; it's not a business but

SLSC's mission: to prevent crime and promote responsible community living and safer communities

people have my work. It's the best therapy I've ever had in my life.

LP: Any plans to turn this talent into a business?

DM: I am actually starting my own business. I'll be selling my paintings along with all kinds of other artists across Canada. We have also approached CSC about going into the institutions to assist artists in there to give them a start before they hit the street. Another thing we want to do with our company once we get it up and running is we want to assist families of offenders. 

Lacey Phillips is SLSC's Administrative Assistant.

Bolton Day 2004 Registration Form

To register for Bolton Day 2004, please detach or photocopy this form, complete it and mail it to the address at right, with a cheque payable to St. Leonard's Society of Canada.

Name: _____

Title/organization: _____

Address, phone and email: _____

Special Diet: _____

I will be attending Bolton Day *only*, and am enclosing a registration fee cheque for **\$75 (\$85 if registering after May 1)**.

To: Joanne Knox Conference Registrar SLSC — Kingston Office P.O. Box 35003 Kingston ON K7L 5S5
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N.B. Members and friends of SLSC who will be attending other AGM weekend events must register for these events through a detailed registration form, available from your local affiliate or by contacting SLSC Head Office (see p. 8)

Moving Policy Ahead in 2004

SLSC Policy Considerations Overview

by Jessica DiZazzo and Susan Haines

The first few months of 2004 have seen a rejuvenation of diverse research and policy issues at St. Leonard's Society of Canada. With the addition of University of Ottawa placement student Jessica DiZazzo working with relatively new Researcher and Policy Analyst, Susan Haines, a renewed Research and Policy team has evolved. Working in close collaboration with the Policy Review and Social Action Committee and the Executive Director, the following issues have been brought forth with an expectation for further exploration and development:

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Legislation

Some organizations have suggested lowering current legislatively prohibited blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels from 0.08 (80 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood) to 0.05. Canadian drinking and driving legislation is among the most punitive in the world, and even countries with limits under 0.05 tend to react mildly to low-BAC drivers, focussing prevention and punishment on chronic offenders and those with BAC levels well above 0.08. SLSC has supported the Canadian Safety Council's recommendation that a reduction in BAC levels not be legislated.

ION Scanners and Non-Invasive Searches

Clearly the safety and security of inmates, staff and visitors are of foremost concern for Correctional Services Canada (CSC). Unfortunately, search procedures often depart from official policy in many institutions, making for unfair or exploitative practices. ION scanners, the machines used to detect drugs and prohibited substances, have aroused great controversy concerning false positives. In order to allay concerns, CSC revised non-invasive search policies to balance protection of human rights and security, while ensuring that no single measure is used to prohibit visitation.

Inmate Computers

In response to undisclosed security concerns, as well as negative press coverage, CSC implemented a policy prohibiting inmate ownership of personal computers. While those owning computers prior to October 2002 will be permitted to keep their computers (insofar as they comply with regulations), other prospective owners are denied ownership. Although CSC is promising to provide a number of common computers, the feasibility and frugality of this proposal versus the older system is subject to question.

Inmate Discipline

St. Leonard's has been keeping abreast of the recent reforms to inmate discipline policy (Commissioner's Directive 580). This directive attempts to improve the balance towards discipline and

rehabilitation. The policy also outlines specific, formal protocols of the disciplinary process while promoting informal resolution processes.

Privacy Legislation

On January 1, the new federal *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)* came into effect, mandating new procedures surrounding the privacy of personal information. As an affiliation of registered charities, this relates to our national office operations as well as to our community-level affiliates who deal with personal information each and every day. As a result, St. Leonard's Society of Canada has drafted a Privacy Policy for review at our Annual General Meeting in May, and has offered it for adoption by our affiliates.

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice has grown in popularity in recent years, both within and outside the criminal justice and correctional systems. The Policy Review and Social Action Committee has recently entered the forum and has undertaken preliminary research to determine the agency's position, and the relevance of restorative principles to St. Leonard's Societies operations. Should the exploratory research prove promising, we may proceed to evaluate what we are doing to achieve these ends and how to better meet them.

Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)

One year following the implementation of the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, SLSC has begun investigating key issues, particularly those involving provincial differences in custody rates and programming working towards a resultant national policy strategy and statement. Preliminary research has confirmed the anticipated decrease in youth custody levels across the country, but has also led to further questions relating to the provinces "opting-in" to programming opportunities, as well as questions regarding allocation of federal funds.



Susan Haines is the Researcher and Policy Analyst for SLSC. Jessica DiZazzo is on co-op student placement at SLSC from the University of Ottawa Criminology Dept.

SOCIETY NEWS

House of Hope

Learning and Innovation Seed Fund Award

By Carole Mallows

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is pleased to announce that one of its members, the House of Hope in Ottawa, has received an award from the Learning and Innovation Seed Fund in conjunction with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC). The Learning and Innovation Seed Fund is a Government of Canada pilot project supported by the Learning and Development Committee of Deputy Ministers. Its goal is to encourage and help innovation in the public service. The Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD), which manages the fund, received nearly 500 responses from every province and territory in Canada for the 2003/2004 funding. A Blue Ribbon Panel was commissioned to choose only 16 winners out of this deluge of proposals. House of Hope staff was delighted and honoured to learn that their project, "The Families of Offenders Federal Government Awareness Campaign" was one of the chosen winners.

Karen Morehouse, Executive Director of the House of Hope and Carole Mallows, Project Coordinator, have been working diligently along with Bob Cormier and Paul McKenzie of PSEPC to coordinate the "Families of Offenders Federal Government Awareness Campaign." This campaign was designed to bring the needs of these families to the forefront of government awareness and to initiate new ideas and novel approaches to the issue. Families of offenders are currently falling through the cracks in services. There are few programs designed to address the specific needs of this population. Those that do exist are usually managed by the non-profit sector and are sporadic and short-term in nature. House of Hope envisioned a more coordinated effort by the Canadian government to bring assistance to these families, which currently are struggling with issues such as poverty, stigmatization, behavioural problems in their children and issues relating to their partner's criminal lifestyle. Research in the USA has discovered that children of offenders are at five times the risk of spending time in prison as adults than their counterparts. House of Hope felt that it was important to address the issues of intergenerational crime and to promote the importance of developing and implementing early intervention and prevention strategies that decrease the intergenerational impacts of crime for children and youth with a parent in prison.


The workshops produced and facilitated by House of Hope staff are to be conducted in various government departments such as Health Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs, HRDC, Correctional Service of Canada, National Parole Board, Statistics Canada and the Treasury Board, to name a few. A large part of the workshops will be dedicated to brainstorming sessions in order to encourage innovative thinking and multiple perspectives. Staff will produce a final report containing all the feedback from policy-makers and other officials in government circles, which ultimately will be presented to the Privy Council. House of Hope is able to bring to the workshop their experiences of running a family support program for those affected by the incarceration of a loved one, their research findings and information about programs and interventions in other countries. House of Hope has also been able to coordinate with other professionals and with students in the production of the workshop. Karen Morehouse is especially grateful to Christina Guest of Chaplaincy CSC; Joanne Cardinal in the Criminology department of the University of Ottawa; Stacey Hannem-Kish, a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at Carleton University; Nicole George, a Criminology graduate, who will be facilitating the French workshops and Erin Robertson, a student in the Criminology department of Carleton University as well as members of the CABI Advisory Committee: Children and Youth Affected by Incarceration, for all their hard work and contributions to the project. Stacey Hannem-Kish will be a co-facilitator in the workshops.



AND THE WINNER IS...

SLSC Affiliate House of Hope was honoured with the Learning and Innovation Seed Fund Award on February 23rd. Featured, from left to right, are: Dawn Nicholson-O'Brian, Carole Mallows, Sharon MacEachern, Karen Morehouse and Jennifer Printup.

Photo: Bill Rankin

Her doctoral research is on the needs of prisoners' families and the stigma faced by them in the community. Erin Robertson has been responsible for the production of the "Families of Offenders Game." This game is designed to bring the reality of everyday life for families with a loved one in conflict with the law to participants in the workshops. Karen and Carole are very excited by this opportunity to speak directly to government policy-makers. They have seen first-hand the challenges that families affected by incarceration face every day. They have been inspired by the strength of some of the women who are trying to raise their children to be healthy adults in very difficult circumstances. They feel that, with a little help, these families would be able to thrive rather than simply survive. They hope that this campaign will plant a seed, which will eventually grow into a national initiative to bring families of offenders out of isolation and back into community life. 

Carole Mallows is a Program Coordinator at House of Hope.

St. Leonard's Community Services Brant

Attendance Centre

by Mike Bryson


Since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1 2003, the sentencing of youth to dispositions of Open Custody and Secure Custody have dropped by sixty percent across the province. This created a need to reallocate resources for non-custodial measures prescribed under the YCJA, which were not yet available to the Courts. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services redistributed limited existing Open Custody funding to establish non-

residential Attendance Centre pilot projects for a three month duration commencing January 1 2004. Only four such centres from across the province were chosen and St. Leonard's Community Services of Brant was awarded one of them. [*St. Vincent de Paul Home in Peterborough, an SLSC Associate Member, was awarded another such centre – Ed.*] This Attendance Centre is a logical addition to the St. Leonard's delivery of Youth Justice Services and is complemented by many programs currently offered within our Agency's other service sectors including addictions, mental health, education, employment and child welfare support programs.

The provision of these non-custodial programs, which address criminogenic needs in youth, would enhance the service capacity of the Brantford Youth Court. This sentencing option would provide a less intrusive disposition than custody for youth, enabling them to maintain their current residence, education, employment and community relationships. The Attendance Centre would serve males and females who are aged 12-17 at the time of their offence. Referrals are made in three possible ways: Justices can make a disposition under YCJA Section 42(2) m, or Justices can make attendance a condition of a Probation Order under YCJA Section 42(2) k, or Youth Officers can petition a Justice for a variance of the terms and conditions of an existing Probation Order to better serve the client in the community.

Our Attendance Centre provides Cognitive Behavioural Programs and individualized support services, which address specific, identified needs of the youth based on assessments of: family history, current level of functioning and motivation, education, employment, criminal history, previous treatment and/or program involvement, substance use and legal requirements of the court or government agency. Programs available at the Attendance Centre include: Problem Solving and Social Skills Development, Awareness of Criminality, Victim Awareness, Anger Management and Interpersonal Problem Solving, Youth Violence Intervention, Substance Abuse, Academic Assistance, Job Readiness, Sexual Health and Independence Skills training

At the Attendance Centre, staff work with youth to: reduce the risk level to re-offend, develop pro-social attitudes and values, increase awareness regarding the impact their behaviour has on victims and society, increase problem solving ability, increase social skills, increase anger management skills, increase knowledge of violence, improve coping skills for substance abuse problems, improve educational performance, improve job search capabilities, increase knowledge about sexual health, increase independent living skills, improve recreation knowledge and skills, and chose a healthier lifestyle.

The Youth Court and probation services have embraced the program during the pilot period. Twenty-four youth have been referred to the Attendance Centre during the first six weeks of operation, which represents just about 100% of all youth getting a probation disposition during the period. 

Mike Bryson is a staff member of St. Leonard's Community Services.

St. Leonard's House (Peel) *New Housing Project for Homeless Men*

by **Stephen Rhodes**

At a recent luncheon at St. Leonard's House (Peel) with all of its community partners crammed into a makeshift dining hall in the recreation centre, the region of Peel announced it was granting \$1 million to help St. Leonard's build another housing project for homeless men in transition.


Bob Yamashita, Manager of Homelessness and Housing Initiatives Co-ordination for the region, praised the work of St. Leonard's: "They are patient, non judgmental and they are there when we need them," he told the meeting. Yamashita said the largest contributor to homelessness was a lack of tolerance and a lack of community. "I don't know my neighbour," leads to a significant breakdown in community. "We need to learn from the diversity evident at St. Leonard's – we need to learn compassion and tolerance." Yamashita says community partnerships can make a difference and that St. Leonard's House (Peel) has become a model for how these partnerships can work to a community's benefit. "Nothing happens for people without housing. They can't stabilize and get their lives together. Governments are time-bound and that's why we need partnerships like St. Leonard's if we hope to be successful," Yamashita said.

The new facility, which will cost about \$1.7 million to build, will provide additional residential services for 14 men, more than doubling the number of beds for homeless men to 24. "The program will continue to focus on long-term care and solutions to meet the abusive cycles of these men. We build capacity through the development of a sense of belonging and community. We are not a shelter, we are a home," says Executive Director Rick Brown.

With a proven 30 year track record, St. Leonard's House (Peel) is proud of the accomplishments of its residents and its community. The non-profit organization gets funding and support from Correctional Services Canada, Region of Peel, the Rotary Club of Brampton and the United Way. In recent years they have expanded their facilities to improve service. New facilities include the Father John Bailett Home, the Joyce Waters Education Centre, the Rotary Resolve House, the Recreation Centre and the Woodshop for Excellence. "Each new facility fills in another piece of the puzzle in the delivery of effective service to our men and to the community," says Brown.

St. Leonard's mission is to "provide a place of safety, belonging, dignity, nourishment and education for men in transition." Its two main client groups are the homeless and the ex-offender in transition. Sir Robert Williams House, Rotary Resolve House and the Father John Bartlett Home provide a community of peers and support who respect and assist each other in re-integrating into the broader society. The community is an integrated, collaborative community in which people help people to reach their full potential, Brown says.

"It is important for the safety of the community to have a way for men who are in a transitional period of life, often institutionalized, to successfully re-enter society after years of incarceration or living on the street. It is important for the man in transition to have support in a time of uncertainty," says John Lomax, chairman of St. Leonard's board of directors.

The regional funding will be used to build a 24 apartment residence for the chronically homeless and isolated. The region will provide \$1.165 million, as part of a successful application to HRDC, to meet the needs of homeless people and at-risk populations. 

Stephen Rhodes is a member of the Rotary Club of Brampton.

Donate on-line through CanadaHelps.org

SLSC now accepts donations on-line through CanadaHelps.org. Visit our website (www.stleonards.ca) and click on the CanadaHelps.org link, listed under "Features" in the left column.

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

St. Leonard's Society of Canada will be holding its AGM in London, Ontario on Saturday May 29th, 2004, at the Delta Armouries Hotel, 325 Dundas Street. Agenda items include: approval of agenda, minutes of previous AGM, actions of Board of Directors, and membership fees; receipt of reports of Board of Directors and Auditor; appointment of Auditor; disposition of policy resolutions and election of Directors of the Society.

Registration required for attendance at the AGM and related activities. Registration forms and detailed information on A GM agenda and other weekend activities are available from the Ottawa Office.

ABOUT US . . .

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a national voluntary organization whose mission is to prevent crime and promote responsible community living and safer communities. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily shared by the editors or the Society. Submissions, inquiries and comments are welcomed. Please contact us at:

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Comings and Goings

As a fresh new spring season approaches, St. Leonard's Society of Canada welcomes some new faces. Jessica Dizazzo joins the head office staff as a co-op placement student from the University of Ottawa. Her work in the area of policy research is focussing on Restorative Justice, Computers in Prisons and voluntary sector advocacy. Jessica is an enthusiastic addition to head office staff.

The Board of Directors welcomes John Battison as the representative for Larch Halfway House. John is a professor of social work at Cambrian College and SLSC was delighted to have him join the board in February.